

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 INR-07

NSC-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DHA-05 IO-13

PA-01 EURE-00 /071 W

-----029594 091401Z /43

P 091231Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8807

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

CINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: ANKARA 6678 (DTG 081126Z SEP 77)

1. ALL PAPERS SEPT. 9 REPORT THAT GOT HAS OFFICIALLY
PROTESTED SHOOTING OF TURKISH SALVAGE SHIP "HOPA 1" BY
GREEK PATROL BOAT ON SEPT. 7. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS,
GREEK AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED IN BY FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL LATE
AFTERNOON SEPT. 8 TO RECEIVE NOTE OF PROTEST; MODERATE
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DAILY "MILLIYET" ACCOUNT NOTES THAT GREEK AMBASSADOR MET ONLY
FIFTEEN MINUTES WITH FONMIN. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT
CAGLAYANGIL WARNED GOG OF "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES" IF ATTACKS
BY GREEK NAVAL VESSELS ON TURKISH CIVILIAN SHIPS CONTINUE.
"MILLIYET" REPORT ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT "HOPA 1" WAS
EXERCISING RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE IN TRANSITING "ANOTHER
NATION'S" WATERS PEACEFULLY AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED

TO SEIZURE OR ATTACK. ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES AFTER MEETING WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR, CAGLAYANGIL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "HOPA 1" WAS EIGHT MILES OFF MITILINI (LESVOS) ISLAND AT TIME OF ATTACK.

2. IN PARALLEL GREEK DEVELOPMENT, DEFMIN BILGIC DENIED IN STATEMENT TO PRESS SEPT. 8 THAT STRENGTH OF GREEK ARMED FORCES IS GREATER THAN TURKEY'S. HE ALSO SAID THAT DEFENSE EQUIPMENT NEEDS OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES ARE BEING MET, AND RHETORICALLY ASKED REPORTER "WHY DO YOU CLAIM THAT GREEK ARMAMENTS ARE MORE AVANCED THAN OURS?"

3. COMMENT: PRESS PLAY OVER "HOPA 1" INCIDENT HAS BEEN PROMINENT, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BY NO MEANS DOMINATED THE NEWS. USDAO WILL REPORT FURTHER ON DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT, AND HAS ASCERTAINED THAT NO REPEAT NO NOTICE TO MARINERS WAS IN EFFECT FOR AREA AROUND MITILINI (PARA 2 REFTEL). ADDITIONALLY, WE WISH TO NOTE THAT, OTHER THAN PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC BYPLAY, MILITARY HEADQUARTERS HAVE VIEWED INCIDENT ROUTINELY. HOWEVER, MFA CYPRUS-GREECE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS EPT. 8, VOICED GREAT CONCERN THAT "WAR OR PEACE DECISIONS COULD BE IN THE HANDS OF SOME NAVAL OFFICER."
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA06731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Event:
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SAS ID: 1339939
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TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SOPN, GR, TU
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